

**EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS BOARD[282]**

**Adopted and Filed**

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 272.2(1)“a,” the Board of Educational Examiners hereby amends Chapter 14, “Special Education Endorsements,” Iowa Administrative Code.

A committee of school administrators, special education teachers, Area Education Agency staff, Department of Education staff, and Board of Educational Examiners staff met over several months to examine possible changes to the existing special education endorsements. Based on recommendations from this committee, the Board set forth proposed amendments in a Notice of Intended Action published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on September 3, 2014, as **ARC 1602C**.

Under the proposed amendments, the K-12 Special Education endorsement would have replaced the current instructional strategist I and II endorsements. The newly created K-12 Special Education endorsement increases specific preparation requirements of special education teachers (both in general education and special education preparation), addresses the noncategorical delivery models of special education, and includes coverage of Iowa’s specific special education issues and practices.

A public hearing was held on September 24, 2014, with written comment accepted until September 26, 2014. Written comments received after September 26, 2014, were provided to the Board.

The Board received approximately 250 written comments on the proposed amendments. At the public hearing on September 24, 2014, 52 people signed in and 15 spoke in opposition to the proposed amendments. The primary themes of the public input were: (1) opposition to eliminating current endorsements and requiring currently licensed teachers to take necessary coursework to obtain the proposed K-12 endorsement, and (2) the breadth of the proposed K-12 endorsement.

Based on this input and in response to the expressed concern about the proposed amendments not allowing for the grandfathering-in of those currently licensed individuals who hold other special education endorsements, the Board has elected to make the K-12 Special Education endorsement an option but not a requirement. With the amendment adopted herein, no action is taken on the currently available endorsements (that is, the Board did not adopt the amendments proposed in Item 1 of the Notice). The amendment adopted by the Board adds a new endorsement, K-12 Special Education, and an option for individuals to add specializations. These specializations may only be added to a license with the new K-12 Special Education endorsement. Based on public comment, the Board has added new paragraph 14.2(11)“f” to create an optional specialization in learning disabilities.

There is an agencywide waiver provision available in 282—Chapter 6.

The Board of Educational Examiners adopted this amendment on January 15, 2015.

After analysis and review of this rule making, there is no anticipated impact on jobs.

This amendment is intended to implement Iowa Code section 272.2(1)“a.”

This amendment will become effective March 25, 2015.

The following amendment is adopted.

Adopt the following **new** subrules 14.2(10) and 14.2(11):

**14.2(10) K-12 special education.** This endorsement authorizes instruction in all K-12 special education programs without regard to the instructional model for all students identified with disabilities, except students with visual or hearing impairments. The applicant must present evidence of having completed coursework to meet the following program requirements.

*a.* Foundations of special education. To include cultural and instructional characteristics of students with disabilities, current issues, special education law, individualized education plans, history of special education, inclusive practices, and Iowa service delivery models.

*b.* Assessment, diagnosis and evaluation. To include diagnostic, formative, and summative assessments (both general and alternate), adaptive behavior skills, data usage in program decision making, and interpretation of standardized assessment.

*c.* Methods for teaching general education core curriculum. To include one course each in methods for elementary math and literacy.

d. Academic methods and strategies. To include evidence-based models for providing instructional methodologies, adaptation, accommodation and intensive interventions of the K-12 general education curriculum for students with disabilities (including concepts reflected in the Iowa Core essential elements for individuals with significant intellectual disabilities). The methodology for remediation of literacy and math skills must be included.

e. Preparation in research-based assessment and intervention practices. To include applied behavior analysis (ABA), behavior intervention planning (BIP), cognitive behavioral strategies (e.g., CBM, rational emotive education), de-escalation techniques (e.g., Mandt, CPI), functional behavioral assessment (FBA), and positive behavior interventions and supports (PBIS), in order to increase or promote language and communication development; emotional and social health; positive social interaction, personal satisfaction, and self-determination; decision-making skills; and independent functioning at school and home and in the community.

f. Collaborative and transition partnerships. To include awareness of the services, networks, and organizations available including transitional support K-12; preparation in working with parents and families, community agencies, service providers, and support staff including paraeducators; strategies for working with general classroom teachers and knowledge of the collaborative and consultative roles of special education teachers in the integration of individuals with disabilities into the general curriculum and classroom; and special emphasis on transitions of students to postsecondary environments.

g. Assistive/instructional technology. To include preparation in the use of assistive and instructional technology to assist students with moderate to significant disabilities to access the core curriculum and address compensatory or individualized needs, including accessible instructional materials.

h. Student teaching across all grade levels (K-12) with students with disabilities.

**14.2(11) *Special education specializations.*** Specializations allow the applicant to demonstrate expanded knowledge and skills with specific disability categories. The following specializations are not endorsements and are not required for specific assignments, but may be used by local school districts and nonpublic schools in specific settings. Specializations may be added to a teaching license by the completion of an additional 15 credit hours dedicated to the specialization beyond the special education endorsement requirements.

a. Intellectual disabilities: Fifteen credit hours of coursework dedicated to characteristics, instructional methodology, assessment, and transition of K-12 students with intellectual disabilities.

b. Autism spectrum disorders: Fifteen credit hours of coursework dedicated to characteristics, instructional methodology, assessment, and transition of K-12 students with autism spectrum disorders.

c. Behavioral/emotional disorders: Fifteen credit hours of coursework dedicated to characteristics, instructional methodology, assessment, and transition of K-12 students with behavior/emotional disorders.

d. Multiple disabilities: Fifteen credit hours of coursework dedicated to characteristics, instructional methodology, assessment, and transition of K-12 students with multiple disabilities.

e. Physical disabilities: Fifteen credit hours of coursework dedicated to characteristics, instructional methodology, assessment, and transition of K-12 students with physical disabilities.

f. Learning disabilities: Fifteen credit hours of coursework dedicated to characteristics, instructional methodology, assessment, and transition of K-12 students with learning disabilities.

[Filed 1/27/15, effective 3/25/15]

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 2/18/15.